

In the Specification

On page 5, after line 12, insert:

-- In one example of another embodiment of the present invention, online auctions are conducted to sell the commodity and bundled insurance instrument to the highest bidder. In one example, a method for managing the sale of a tier-priced commodity is disclosed comprising displaying to a first bidder a first price for a first bundled product comprising the commodity and a first insurance instrument to indemnify against loss associated with at least one risk related to the purchase of the commodity by the first bidder. The method further comprises displaying to a second bidder a second price for a second bundled product comprising the commodity and a second insurance instrument to indemnify against loss associated with at least one risk related to the purchased of the commodity by the second bidder. Bids are received for the bundled products from the first and second bidders and a processor determines which bidder exceeds their respective price by a greater amount. The respective bundled product is sold to that bidder.

In one example of a related embodiment, a system to manage the sale of a commodity is disclosed. The system comprises memory to store prices for respective bundled products comprising a commodity and a respective insurance instrument to indemnify against loss associated with at least one risk related to the purchase of the commodity by respective bidders. A processor is coupled to the memory. The processor is programmed to provide each bidder a respective price for a respective bundled product. The processor is also programmed to determine which of the bids received from bidders exceeds the respective price provided to each bidder, by a greater amount. The bundled product is sold to that bidder. In another example of a related embodiment, the memory stores commodity price data and insurance valuation data, and the processor, which is coupled to a network, is programmed to determine a respective price for respective bundled products for each of a plurality of bidders.

The commodity may be electrical power, natural gas, water, or telecommunications bandwidth, for example. The risk may be a risk of interruptions in delivery. The price or value of the insurance may depend on one or more factors associated with each bidder, for example. Different prices may therefore be provided to each bidder, for respective bundled products. --

On page 6, the paragraph starting on line 14 is amended as follows:

-- Figure 4 is a flowchart illustrating the method steps of the embodiment of the invention.

On page 13, the paragraph starting on line 11 is amended as follows:

Fig. 7 illustrates an implementation of the present invention facilitating an online auction for a commodity and bundled financial instrument. A first bidder computer **70** and a second bidder computer **72** are connected via a computer network such as the Internet **74** to a tier-priced commodity transaction server **76**. The tier-priced commodity transaction server **76** presents the first bidder computer **70** and the second bidder computer **72** ~~[[a]]~~ starting bids (prices, personalized for each participating bidder) for a given commodity at a specified tier and an associated financial instrument. The potential bids are accepted by the tier-priced commodity transaction server **76** and the commodity and bundled financial instrument is sold to the highest bidder.

On page 13, insert the following new paragraph after line 19:

-- More particularly, the starting price or bid for the first bundled product for the first bidder and the starting price or bid for the second bundled product for the second bidder are determined by the transaction server **76** and provided to the first bidder computer **70** and the second bidder computer **72**, respectively, via the network **74**. The network may be the Internet. The respective prices are displayed to the first and second bidders by the first and second bidder

computers **70, 72**, respectively. The first and second bidders submit their bids to the commodity transaction server **76**, via their respective computers **70, 72**, and the network **74**. The commodity transaction server **76** sells the first bundled product to the first bidder if the first bidder exceeds the first price by a greater amount than the second bidder exceeds the second price. The commodity transaction server **76** sells the second bundled product to the second bidder if the second bidder exceeds the second price by a greater amount than the first bidder exceeds the first price. --